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Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Letter dated 6 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the Moncton Declaration and Plan of Action, the final documents of the Eighth Summit of la Francophonie, which was held at Moncton, Canada, from 3 to 5 September 1999 (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 25.

(*Signed*) Robert R. **Fowler**
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Annex I

[Original: English and French]

Moncton Declaration
(5 September 1999)

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language, meeting on September 3 to 5, 1999, in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, have decided to devote the Eighth Summit of La Francophonie to

Youth

recognizing that it is upon the commitment and support of young people that the future of the Francophone ideal must rest.

2. **We have listened to the young people of our countries.** We have encouraged national and regional consultation efforts, and those of the Secretary General. We are determined to respond to the expectations that the young people of La Francophonie have expressed during preparations for this Summit, by associating them more closely with our activities. We will ensure that our youth receive a proper education, especially in vocational and technical areas, and that they can find a job, give free rein to their creativity, live in freedom and security, and flourish within their own cultures, while being open to others.

3. We reaffirm that peace, democracy and sustainable development are not only interdependent goals but are values that we all share. La Francophonie cannot be indifferent to crises, conflicts, military occupation, forced migration and infringements on human rights and democracy, all of which thwart development and undermine cooperative efforts to improve the well-being of our peoples.

4. We will strive, in the process of worldwide integration now underway, to ensure respect for cultural diversity, an undeniable factor for enriching our universal heritage.

5. We reiterate, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the intergovernmental Agence de La Francophonie, that La Francophonie represents a cultural and linguistic forum in which multilateral cooperation is based on the active commitment of its members. We intend to pursue an increasingly multidimensional agenda to give effect to

the reforms that were launched by the Summits of Cotonou and Hanoi and thereby to confirm the role of La Francophonie as a key player in the world of tomorrow.

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La Francophonie and the challenges of political equality, security and democracy

6. **Globalization**: Globalization affects people in every aspect of their lives. Its impact on political, economic, social and cultural affairs is often a cause of concern, especially for the poorest and least developed countries, and warrants particular attention to the role of government regulation. Our community, working closely together with all the players in international relations, and in particular with the United Nations, is determined to help manage this process and to ensure that globalization produces benefits for all, in an equitable manner.

7. **International security and the safety of civilians:** In close cooperation with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, and with full respect for international law, resolutions and accords, we will pursue our efforts in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-keeping and peace-building. In particular, we condemn the recruitment and involvement of children in armed conflicts. We commit ourselves to use all means to help young people reintegrate into civil society in post-conflict situations.

8. **The democratic process and human rights:** We reiterate our determination to strengthen the rule of law and the democratic process, as well as the values and ethics on which they are founded, including respect for human rights, for the rights of peoples and those of minorities, and for equality between men and women. We condemn inhuman and degrading treatment in all its forms, and we will strive in particular to combat the exploitation of children.

Aware of our responsibilities within the Francophone world, we reaffirm the mandate of the Secretary General on these issues. We will strenghthen the means devoted to his missions and we will establish the modalities of our political consultation.

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La Francophonie, a culture of openness and pluralism

9. **Language and culture**: Linguistic plurality and cultural diversity are realities that we must promote. In this spirit, we must continue to support the promotion and dissemination of the French language that unites us, as well as those partner cultures and languages that characterize and enrich our communities. We will pay particular attention to these aspects in connection with the information highway.

10. **Cultural diversity** : Convinced that cultural assests cannot be reduced to their economic dimension alone, we affirm the right of our States and governments to define freely their own cultural policies and the instruments for giving effect to them. We intend to encourage the broadest possible constituency in favour of such diversity, and will work to

mobilize all governments in support of this objective. This question of diversity and any other issue of international debate to which La Francophonie must provide its original contribution, will be the subject of consultations within La Francophonie, involving all member States and Governments.

11. **Education and training:** We are determined to provide our youth with a sound education embracing the primary and secondary levels, as well as an effective university system. To this end, we will seek the full support of the competent international organizations. We will encourage the use of new technologies to modernize our teaching systems. We welcome the conclusions of the Francophone forum on vocational and technical training held in Bamako.

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La Francophonie: striving in partnership for sustainable economic development

12. **Francophone solidarity**: La Francophonie is a bridge between peoples, between North and South. Our use of a common language facilitates trade and the exchange of experience, cooperation and development assistance. The Monaco Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance demonstrated the sense of solidarity that inspires our cooperation and we welcome its results. We will intensify our joint efforts to ensure that its recommendations are put into effect.

13. **A forum for cooperation and consensus:** Aware of the benefits that properly managed economic globalization can yield, we support efforts to strengthen and adjust the world financial system and we will seek to further the liberalization of trade through the WTO. Yet we are also conscious of the risk that developing countries may be left behind in the march toward globalization. We will therefore work to facilitate the integration of greater numbers of our member countries into the world trading system, within an environment that is conducive to equitable growth and in which the interests of human beings come first. We will foster regional economic integration and cooperation and will encourage the international community to take a positive attitude to development assistance and the treatment of debt, in particular for the Least Developed Countries.

14. **The information society:** The development of information and communication systems opens broad new perspectives for our countries and for the world economy in terms of employment and economic and social development. We will promote the exchange of know-how and the transfer of skills in the areas of science and technology. We will reinforce the efforts already undertaken by Francophone institutions in this regard, and target them more closely at young people, so as to provide them with the vocational and technical training which would facilitate their economic and social integration.

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15. We welcome the participation of youth in the programs of La Francophonie and the establishment of a regular dialogue. We will invite youth, on a representative basis, to participate in setting the course for our activities, and we will support and encourage them

to play their full role in development.

16. We request the Secretary General to continue his mission as the political spokesman for La Francophonie and as the person responsible for promoting multilateral Francophone cooperation, within the framework defined by the Charter, and to foster consultations with other regional and international organizations.

17. We will mobilize all the resources needed to pursue the missions of La Francophonie. We are adopting an Action Plan that will provide the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie with an appropriate framework for achieving our objectives.

Annex II

[Original: English and French]

Moncton Action Plan

PREAMBLE

We have decided to devote this Summit to youth, because we believe that young people represent not only the future of La Francophonie, but a force that can and must be mobilized today, as a full partner in the decisions we take.

In each of these priority areas of action, we will ensure that the key players pay particular attention to youth, and that this objective is built into all our activities.

I. PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

PRIORITY No. 1: CONSOLIDATING PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

A central mission of La Francophonie is to give effect, within the Francophone world, to the universal aspiration for peace, democracy and respect for human rights. We must help Francophones to move forward together along this path by combining our efforts with those of the competent international organizations. To accomplish this priority task, the Secretary General must have the necessary human and financial resources, as determined by member States and governments.

1.1 Intensifying efforts for peace and in support of civilian populations

1.1.1 Building peace

We reaffirm that peace and security are indispensable to sustainable development. Democracy, human rights, basic freedoms, the rule of law and good governance are essential to preventing and resolving conflicts within and between countries. Our cooperation on these issues must be focussed in particular on children, women and civil society in general, with an emphasis on joint and multilateral action.

We commit ourselves to strengthening cooperation with multilateral institutions that have a role to play in preventing and resolving conflicts, in particular the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and to supporting initiatives to strengthen peace in Francophone countries

We welcome the political and diplomatic initiatives taken by the Secretary General since Hanoi. We invite him to continue his efforts on behalf of peacekeeping and crisis resolution. We will reinforce systematic dialogue between the Secretary General and our representatives for preparing and carrying out his activities in this area.

We support all efforts to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace treaty in the Middle East, through re-activation of the Madrid process on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations Security Council, and on the principal of "land for peace". We reaffirm our support for the application of resolution 425 of the United Nations Security Council, which calls for the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

We also offer our support to efforts to settle the disputes that still persist in the region of the Great Lakes and in the Balkans, in accordance with the ad hoc resolutions of international bodies.

We take pride in the Lusaka Accord, an essential step in establishing a just peace throughout the region of the Great Lakes. We call on all parties and signatories to apply all of the provisions of the Accord. We will support its application, and we urge the international community to promote these efforts at reconciliation, particularly through the implementation of the pertinent United Nations resolutions.

We are satisfied with the outcome of the internal dialogue in Togo that led to the framework agreement for national reconciliation. We ask all signatories to apply all of the provisions of this agreement and urge the international community, particularly Europe, to provide Togo with the necessary support for this process to succeed.

We will also provide support, through our multilateral cooperation efforts, for the process under way in Niger and Guinea-Bissau, and we call for compliance with the election timetables in order to re-establish the constitutional process in these countries.

Finally, we hope that the implementation of the Antananarivo Accords will enable Comoros to move quickly along the road toward peace, democracy and development, and urge the international community to support this process.

1.1.2. Enhancing civilian security

We intend to promote actions on behalf of peace and international security, and policies to protect civilians exposed to armed conflict. To put an end to the psychological and physical

pressure suffered by civilians in regions under foreign occupation, we ask the occupying powers to respect the Geneva conventions of 1949 and to abstain from any act that would endanger the life and integrity of young people in particular. We support efforts to strengthen national capacities to manage disputes without recourse to violence and to guarantee the safety of civilians, by implementing mixed strategies focussed on the prevention of conflict, respect for international conventions and the development of new standards, humanitarian law, as well as promoting democracy and human rights.

In evidence of this common determination, we commit ourselves to promote respect for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in particular to work towards preparations of an optional protocol to that convention, concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts. To this end, we will support the efforts of the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to protect children at times of armed conflict, as well as the NGO coalition that has been established to this effect, to stop the use of child soldiers, and we will strive to ensure that children are protected during humanitarian and peacekeeping operations. We will also work to develop a second optional protocol regarding the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

We reiterate our support for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, which has been in effect since May 1999. We will strive to ensure that it obtains the widest possible support and to see that it is enforced, in cooperation with our partners and the NGOs concerned. We will make every effort to win universal adherence to the convention as quickly as possible, and will support the programs for demining and assisting the victims of anti-personnel mines.

We will continue to sensitize our people to the harmful effects of the uncontrolled spread of small-caliber arms. We support the decision of United Nations to convene an international conference on all forms of illicit trade in arms. In particular we support proclamation of a moratorium in West Africa on the import, export and manufacture of light arms. We also subscribe to the declaration of principles on this question by the European Union in December 1998. We will work toward preparation of an international instrument to combat the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms in the context of the United Nations convention against organized transnational crime.

Moreover, we will continue to support the International Criminal Court on matters involving genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in which it must enjoy all possible guarantees of independence and effectiveness. We urge all countries to become parties to the statute of Rome of July 17, 1998, in order to accelerate its implementation.

1.2. Strengthening the democratic process, promoting human rights and reinforcing the rule of law

1.2.1. Democratic culture

We will organize an international symposium in early 2000 on the status of democratic practices, human rights and freedoms in the Francophone world so that, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, we can strengthen cooperation and joint efforts on behalf of constitutional government and a democratic culture. This symposium will represent a new stage in our dialogue on strengthening democracy and respect for human rights. It will serve to highlight major aspects of our own experience and our particular viewpoints, which we will be stressing at the Fourth United Nations Conference on New and Re-established Democracies, planned for Benin in the year 2000.

We will step up the compilation and analysis of legal, institutional and political information intended to support action by the policy bodies of La Francophonie. This observer function, which falls to the Intergovernmental Francophonie Agency, will be conducted in close cooperation with national and international institutions, and with civil society through the competent non-governmental organizations.

The fielding of election observer missions will be pursued, wherever this is possible and necessary, in cooperation with other international organizations. These missions must take place within a context of long-term cooperation with the countries concerned, both during the run-up to elections and in their aftermath. We will provide assistance as necessary in organizing democratic elections, particularly in the legal area, and in support of supervisory institutions and civil society.

We will encourage the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie to continue its efforts, particularly in sponsoring seminars for parliamentarians and training assignments for Francophone officials, in supporting parliamentary documentation services in the South, and in setting up services to record and publish parliamentary debates. We encourage the Assembly to undertake activities to raise awareness among young people about the role and function of our parliaments.

Convinced that local democracy is a precondition for the strengthening of democracy at all levels, we will encourage local governments within our member states to become participants in a decentralized system of Francophone cooperation. We invite the AIMF to continue its efforts to help computerize municipal operations and civil records.

1.2.2. Human rights

We commit ourselves to promote human rights in their entirety and to ensure that civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, are given adequate protection in the daily life of our citizens. To this end, we will promote ratification and implementation of international legal instruments governing the obligations of States to give effect to these rights. We will pay particular attention to the rights of women and children and will undertake to enhance awareness of human rights among youth.

We request the Secretary-General to work closely with the competent international organizations to prepare a report on the status of ratification of the major international legal instruments, and on their implementation. We will encourage implementation of the 1998 Declaration of the International Labour Organization (ILO), on labour principles and fundamental rights.

We will provide technical assistance to states that so request in pursuing dialogue with the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as for giving effect to recommendations of the Committees under the Convention.

We will play an active role in preparing major international conferences in the area of human rights, in particular the Geneva follow-up conference to the Copenhagen Social Summit. We will also prepare for the World Conference of Women to be held in New York in June 2000, by holding a Francophone conference on "Women, Power and Development" in Luxembourg in February of that year.

1.2.3. The rule of law

We proclaim our dedication to the independence of the judiciary and our intention to strengthen national justice systems and to promote the dissemination of law.

We will give particular emphasis to supporting national efforts to reform the justice system, while ensuring that special attention is paid to the issue of justice for minors in all its components (policies for youth integration and the prevention of juvenile crime, the organization of justice for minors, prevention policies, the imprisonment aspect).

We encourage the harmonization of law, particularly in the context of the treaty on the Organization for the Harmonization of African Business Law (OHADA).

We offer our support to the establishment of Francophone networks, particularly those involving constitutional courts as well as supervisory, regulatory and mediation bodies, ombudsman offices and senior authorities for audiovisual affairs. We will make efforts to extend these networks to other institutions.

We support the development of legal and judicial databases, founded upon a systematic assessment and qualitative revision of the program now underway.

PRIORITY NO. 2: PROMOTING LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

2.1. Language

2.1.1. We renew our commitment to defend and promote the use of the French language in international organizations and bodies. We will provide assistance for training diplomats in the

French language. We will strive to ensure respect for plurilingualism and the use of French in standards-setting agencies such as AFNOR (the French Standards Association) and the ISO (International Standards Organization). We will support participation by Francophones in the expert meetings of these agencies, and will encourage international cooperation with respect to French terminology.

2.1.2. We invite the key players of La Francophonie to articulate more closely their programs to support teaching of and in French, including the use of bilingual classes. The widespread use of distance training and wholesale recourse to new technologies of communication and information should be encouraged, as well as linguistic exchanges between Francophone countries. In this context, La Francophonie should rely on local support programs already in place, such as the CLACs (literacy and cultural promotion centres) and local radio broadcasting.

2.1.3. At the Hanoi Summit, we launched an emergency plan for the revival of French in international organizations. We wish to reinforce this plan by placing increasing numbers of young Francophone experts in positions where they can act as multipliers, and by encouraging coordination and participation among Francophone officials at international conferences.

2.1.4. We will pursue our promotion of partner languages by promoting consensus on national policies and on translation to and from partner languages. In this respect, efforts must be made to prepare line-by-line equivalent texts in French and in the partner languages.

2.2. Culture

2.2.1. We believe that the current context of globalization makes it more urgent than ever that La Francophonie should contribute to promoting cultural diversity and its recognition by all players on the international scene. From this perspective, we believe that cultural, including audiovisual, goods and services reflecting national and regional identities must not be treated simply as tradable goods, particularly in the context of multilateral trade negotiations. We reaffirm moreover the right of states, of governments and, if applicable, of communities to establish their own cultural policies, and to decide the means and instruments necessary to implement them. To make these convictions prevail, we believe it essential to mobilize civil society more effectively in the face of these issues, to promote systematic joint efforts among Francophones to prepare common positions on them, and finally to sensitize our non-Francophone trade partners as a whole to the importance of promoting cultural diversity in the context of globalization.

2.2.2. With a particular view to exploring more thoroughly the implications of globalization for cultural diversity, drawing on the experience of members states and governments of La Francophonie, and to assess the essential challenges that motivated signatories of the Niamey Treaty of 1970, we have decided, 10 years after the Liège conference, to devote the ministerial conference for the biennium 2000-2001 to the theme of culture.

2.2.3. In order to promote dialogue among cultures, we will encourage exchanges between

artists, and between cultural industries, and we will facilitate the circulation of their works. We will also provide support for training in cultural careers and occupations. We will conduct an in-depth assessment of the African Arts and Entertainment Market (MASA) so that it can become a veritable springboard for disseminating these products and a forum for interaction between cultural institutions and practising artists.

La Francophonie must take steps to provide financial assistance for artists to participate in cultural events and win greater recognition of their cultural creativity. It will pursue actions initiated through the Support Fund for audiovisual production in the South. Finally, it will help television and cinema producers in the South to gain a greater presence for their productions on international markets and at Francophone film festivals.

2.2.4. We invite the Intergovernmental Francophonie Agency to study the interest and feasibility of an Investment Fund for Cultural Industries. We also wish to see the CLAC program intensified and entrusted with a new mission focussed on development and solidarity.

2.3. The media

2.3.1. We encourage TV5 to reflect fully the cultural diversity of La Francophonie by making more room for the expression of all its components, and to carry more programming from the South over its entire network We welcome the new thrust of TV5 and we give our support to the action plan drawn up by the last conference of ministers responsible for TV5, held in Brussels. We applaud the development efforts of TV5 Afrique and we encourage African countries to foster its growth.

2.3.2. We will pursue our efforts in support of development and dissemination of the French-language printed press.

PRIORITY NO. 3: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We support the role entrusted to CONFEMEN to help prepare and assess education policies among member states and governments, and we invite it to extend its activities to embrace all countries using French as a common language.

We appeal to the competent players of La Francophonie to put their expertise at the service of States in order to facilitate cooperation between our members and international institutions such as the World Bank and the European Union, which have a mandate to develop programs in the area of education.

3.1. Basic education and vocational and technical training

We are determined to provide our young people with a solid education at the primary, secondary and university levels. We will focus in particular on creating the conditions necessary to motivate

young people to take advantage of these various forms of education.

We encourage Francophone educators, in their work relating to literacy, basic education and vocational and technical training, to focus on information and joint action. Pursuit of this objective presupposes in particular greater participation by Francophone cooperation bodies in all activities conducted within the sector, and the development of partnerships among teachers, education administrators, parents, communities, NGOs, associations, economic and social stakeholders. We request the Intergovernmental Francophonie Agency to give priority to the results of the Bamako forum on vocational and technical training.

We support adoption of a publishing policy that will ensure the emergence of a textbook publishing industry in countries of the South.

3.2. Higher education and research

With respect to higher education, we call for actions to foster the mutual recognition of diplomas, mobility for students and researchers, the emergency plan for African universities, research, Francophone university courses, as well as scientific and technical information and increased use of new information and communication technologies.

We encourage steps to strengthen the Université Senghor d'Alexandrie and to open it to new partners.

We congratulate the Secretary General for having initiated the external evaluation process with an evaluation of the Francophonie University Agency (AUF), given the crucial importance of multilateral cooperation in the areas of higher education and research. This comprehensive evaluation, coming after a decade of rapid growth in the AUF, will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of this program and the need to reinvigorate it within a multilateral framework.

We give the Secretary General the mandate to undertake, in close cooperation with the CPF, a forward-looking review of the direction of multilateral university cooperation over the medium term, paying particular attention to giving it a more regionalized focus and reinforcing its unique elements.

This review should result in proposals to reform the structures responsible for developing and implementing multilateral university cooperation. In particular, it must provide for clearer identification of priorities and strategies, a tighter administrative and financial apparatus, and better procedures for evaluating and monitoring programs. It will be based on the AUF evaluation work and on dialogue with the AUF itself.

The next ministerial conference of La Francophonie must consider this reform plan, with a view to adopting it and putting it into effect during the year 2000.

PRIORITY NO. 4: ECONOMIC COOPERATION

4.1. Joint action

The Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance of La Francophonie, meeting in Monaco in April 1999, adopted a declaration of guidelines for the various players within La Francophonie with respect to economic cooperation at three levels: States and governments, entrepreneurship, and human resources.

We have decided to strengthen Francophone coordination both within multilateral organizations and in international conferences of particular importance.

This political and technical coordination will allow us to share and increase our mutual stock of information, and to arrive at common positions wherever possible.

In this regard, we have agreed to work together toward the next round of trade negotiations in the WTO, and throughout that round.

In order to further the regional integration process now underway, we support efforts to strengthen member countries' economic competitiveness, to promote the development of intra-regional trade and encourage consistency among macroeconomic policies, and to harmonize legal provisions as they apply to economic life.

We will continue our efforts to overcome poverty. We will strive to persuade the international community to adopt a more equitable approach to the question of debt, particularly for the less advanced countries.

4.2. Assistance for trade and investment

We call upon the key economic players of La Francophonie to take action wherever their expertise can provide true value-added for member countries, in the form of information, training, and assistance in integrating themselves into the world economic system. La Francophonie should also promote different forms of cooperation: North-South, South-South and tripartite.

In this spirit, we approve the following projects, which we expect to see implemented during the 2000-2001 biennium:

- Creation of a Francophone economic information tool intended in particular to inform economic agents about investment possibilities;

- Establishment of a network of training institutions in the field of international trade;

- Establishment of a fund for the integration and full participation of the least-advanced countries in the world economic system.

4.3. Assistance for entrepreneurial development

We recall our support for efforts that La Francophonie has been making for the creation, development, partnering and support of small businesses, particularly in the South and in economies in transition. This support should give encouragement in particular to the transfer of technology, technical training and greater access to credit, especially through programs to mobilize local savings.

We undertake to strengthen programs to promote a greater role for La Francophonie in the areas of new technologies and cultural industries.

We invite the Intergovernmental Agency and other players to cast their economic programs within the context defined by the Monaco conference, and to encourage systematic coordination and effective cooperation with the specialized international organizations.

4.4. Assistance for sustainable development

We renew our support of the activities of the Intergovernmental Agency, through its Energy and Environment Institute, to ensure the active involvement of the Francophone community in negotiations regarding international environmental agreements.

Efforts should continue in the area of energy in order to build local expertise in the development and management of national energy systems.

PRIORITY NO. 5: NEW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

5.1. Francophone Information Highway Fund

The Francophone Information Highway Fund, instituted following the Montreal conference and the Hanoi Summit, has demonstrated its effectiveness in combining flexibility with strict management. On the basis of its success and its experience, we want to see greater resources made available for this priority program, primarily by increasing the number of contributing countries and by encouraging States and governments to provide untied contributions to the Fund.

In adopting its rules and criteria, the Francophone Information Highway Fund should give particular emphasis to producing and disseminating French-language materials in sectors recognized to be priorities within La Francophonie. A portion of the Fund will be devoted to initiatives and projects submitted by and for young people.

5.2. Access to new communication and information technologies

Access to new communication and information technologies, and in particular access to the Internet, must be facilitated. To this end, La Francophonie will rely on existing structures to establish points of access to the Internet, so as to increase the volume of exchanges between all partners of La Francophonie.

5.3. Training and content development

A significant effort must be made within La Francophonie to sensitize and train new users of communications and information technologies. Francophonie players should also support initiatives to develop French-language content that will be broadly accessible to Francophone and non-Francophones alike.

II YOUTH

A fruitful dialogue took place at Moncton among the heads of State and government, on one hand, and representatives of Francophone youth on the other. This dialogue built upon the results of several national and multilateral consultations, among others those held at Bamako, Geneva and Shippagan-Ouagadougou.

Among the recommendations that young people brought to these preparatory meetings, we note in particular the following: the need to democratize La Francophonie through greater consultation with and participation by youth; support for social and vocational integration; the encouragement of mobility; and improved access to new technologies.

For these purposes, we invite the Secretary General to step up his cooperation with CONFEJES, the Intergovernmental Agency and other key players, as well as with NGOs active in the area of youth. We regard the CONFEJES as the principal source of reference and advice for providing multilateral support for youth policies.

1. Consultation and youth participation

We intend to pursue the dialogue with youth that has already begun within La Francophonie. It will be strengthened by creating a virtual network, and also through mechanisms for consensus-building among organizations representative of youth. We will also encourage greater consultation with young people, in particular through the creation of a youth site, including a database on youth programs now in existence in international institutions and donor agencies as well as at the national level.

We attach great importance to ensuring that there is a proper breadth of representation in the dialogue between youth and the institutions of La Francophonie. To this end, we encourage all countries to develop representative youth structures. These consultative instruments should be

flexible and readily accessible to the people concerned.

2. Social and vocational integration

In order to promote the social and vocational integration of young people, particularly through training, we invite the Intergovernmental Francophonie Agency and the CONFEJES to take joint steps to strengthen the Youth Integration Fund. We reaffirm the Fund's purpose of fostering social and economic integration and providing access to employment creation programs, in close coordination with national and multilateral policies on behalf of youth. This Fund will be intended among other things to share and explore the variety of Francophone experience in the social and vocational integration of young people.

At the same time, we welcome initiatives to encourage young people to express themselves, both collectively and individually. We will support the production and dissemination of artistic, cultural and sporting activities for young people.

3. Mobility

We encourage youth mobility within the Francophone world, through cultural, educational and university exchanges, and training and work assignments. Such motility will help to make young people more aware of the rich diversity of the Francophone world and better informed of opportunities within La Francophonie, and hence better able to take advantage of them.

We have decided to create a program to support mobility for Francophone youth, under the auspices of the International Francophonie Agency, and with the cooperation of CONFEJES. This mobility program will build upon and strengthen existing programs in this field. Without duplicating efforts now underway, it will serve to broaden the opportunities for mobility of young people within the Francophone world.

4. New information and communication technologies

We encourage access for young people to new technologies, without which they will not be able to meet the challenges of the coming millennium. We must help them to master these technologies, to exchange experience with them and to use them in the greatest possible number of applications, in the education area but also as a working tool and an instrument of interrelationship and cooperation.

To this end, we will endeavour to promote the Information Highway Fund among young Francophones and to make it more accessible to them. We will devote a portion of the Information Highway Fund to initiatives and projects submitted by and for young people.

III. RENEWING INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS

We invite Francophone bodies and players to commit themselves to the needed process of updating their methods of operation, which are so important for giving effect to the institutional framework approved at Hanoi.

We welcome the modernization efforts undertaken by the Intergovernmental Francophonie Agency, which constitutes the first step in this process.

We request the bodies and players of La Francophonie to coordinate their activities and to rationalize their working methods by establishing priorities among their objectives, seeking new partners, selecting suitable forms of cooperation and keeping programs under constant evaluation.

1. Prioritizing objectives

La Francophonie must focus its efforts on priority sectors, and must accord them sufficient financial and human resources, drawing upon all Francophonie players as well as external sources of assistance that may be offered. These are the sectors in which La Francophonie has a clear comparative advantage over other systems of cooperation and where it can implement programs that will achieve a critical mass of support.

In this regard, we ask that existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs be constantly borne in mind in preparing these new activities.

2. Enlisting partners

The attractiveness of La Francophonie's programs will be enhanced by building closer ties to bilateral agencies, international organizations and local communities, NGOs, associations, labour unions and private business.

We ask every player to prepare a specific plan for seeking new partners.

3. Selecting forms of cooperation

We have identified four forms of cooperation to which Francophone bodies and players should refer in order to adapt their activities:

3.1. **Reciprocal and voluntary exchange of information**, to help Francophone states and governments define their national policies; this calls for the establishment of a database that can supply elements of reference or comparison.

3.2. **Coordination between Francophone states and governments** to harmonize national policies and seek common positions in sectors where the program alone cannot provide a suitable response.

This technical or political coordination may be achieved by organizing symposia and thematic conferences, such as was the case at Bamako and Monaco, or it may take the form of consultative meetings or exchanges of views before and during major international negotiations, as was done during preparations for the Rio Summit in 1992 and in the discussions concerning the convention instituting the International Criminal Court.

3.3. Mobilizing external financial resources, so that La Francophonie can strengthen its programs or give support to its members in defining projects suitable for financing from major international donors.

3.4 Programs, restricted to the areas where La Francophonie can offer a demonstrated value-added. These must be accompanied by cost controls and decision-making mechanisms that are transparent and effective. They must also respect the criteria of regionalism, multilateralism and synergy.

The role of States and governments must be strengthened within Francophonie bodies, particularly in the Commissions of the Permanent Council, which are to be the subject of in-depth study, and in the program Committees. Efforts to reduce operating expenses must be pursued in favour of active program expenditures.

Wherever possible, programs should rely on instruments such as the Francophone Information Highway Fund, which has shown its effectiveness both for managing and for mobilizing financial resources. Finally, they must be carried out within a clearly defined time frame.

4. Evaluating key players and programs

Upon completion of the evaluation of the Francophone University Agency, we hope that this process will be extended to all other players and programs of La Francophonie. At the same time, we ask that the necessary resources to this end should be included in the budget for every new program and that players should undertake a critical examination of the programs they are now managing.

We support the Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie in implementing the external evaluation of players benefiting from financing under the Single Multilateral Fund. We urge all players to commit themselves to a permanent process for reinforcing multilateral Francophone cooperation. The resulting exchanges will help to enhance the performance of players within the areas of their competence and in particular to make the necessary adjustments between the objectives that are assigned to them, their operational capacities and the financial means at their disposal.

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This plan constitutes the framework for multilateral Francophone cooperation over the next biennium. We request the Secretary General, who is responsible for promoting and coordinating this cooperation, to ensure the harmonization of programs and actions of La Francophonie.